Erosion of Ganga Down-Stream of Farakka Barrage

*363. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe erosion of Ganga down-stream of Farakka Barrage;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to protect the damage caused by the erosion; and

(c) whether it is a fact' that fertile Indian land is being lost to Bangladesh, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Erosion of varying magnitudes at same locations along river Ganga downstream of Farakka Barrage has been taking place from time to time. A plan listing the envisaged erosion protection works costing about Rs. 356 crores in the affected reaches has been prepared by the State Government.

(c) Due to erosion of right bank by Ganga some land on temporary basis is not available for use by India but there is no permanent loss of land to Bangladesh. The situation changes every year owing to meandering nature of the river.

Committee on Vcdic University

*364. DR. SHRIKANT RAMA-CHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee on Vedic University had been appointed by Government of the University Grants Commission:

(b) if so, what is the constitution of the committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(d) if so, what action is being proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission had set up a Committee to examine the proposal of a Central Vedic University and to prepare a Feasibility Report.

The constitution of the Committee was as under:—

(1; Prof. V. Venkatachalam — Chairman

(2) Prof. Dr. Rama Ranjan Mukherjee — Member

(3) Shri. P.L. Sivaraman — Member

(4) Prof. P. Sriramachandrudu — Member

(5) Shri Y.D. Sharma — Member Secy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tirumala-Tirupati Deva-sthanam (TTD) who had initiated the suggestion of Vedic University at Tirupati has been asked to spell out its proposal in the light of the Report of the UGC Committee.

Supply of Machinery to Cooperative Sugar Factories

*365. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Business Standard, (Calcutta) dated the 24th October, 1992 to the effect that the National Cooperative Development Corporation has altered its rules to award the contracts to private manufacturers for supply of machinery to cooperative sugar factories;

(b) whether any enquiry has been instituted into the matter and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the concerned parties, if any?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item. The National Cooperative Development Corporation does not frame rules for award of contract for plant and machinery for cooperative sugar factories. Each State Level Advisory Committee constituted by the State Governments finalises orders for plant & machinery for cooperative sugar factories. The Committee is guided by the rules and procedures prescribed by the respective State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Procurement Price of Wheal, Cotton and Groundnut

*366. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price offered by Government to wheat producers is procurement price or the support price;

(b) what is the difference in calculation of the two prices; and

(c) what would be the procurement prices in the current year in case of non-foodgrain crops particularly cotton and groundnut?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India announces only the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat. For 1991-92 crop, in view of wheat prices ruling at a substantially higher level in the market, the Government also decided to pay bonus to wheat producers over and above the MSP.

(c) The minimum support prices for the 1992-93 crop year is Rs. 750 per quintal in case of Groundnut-in-shell, Rs. 800 per quintal in case of F-414/H-777 variety of Cotton and Rs. 950 per quintal for H-4 variety of Cotton.

Industrial Units in Delhi

*367. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 80 percent of the 85,000 industrial units in the Capital are located in unapproved areas and only 2,000 units are situtated in approved sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) No survey of unauthorised industrial units has been Carried out by the DDA or the MCD and hence precise details of locations of such Units are not available.

(b) On receipt of complaints against Unauthorised units they are investigated Snd action for prosecution is taken by concerned authorities under relevant taws.

Expansion of Pusa Institute

*368. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government for expansion of Pusa Institute of Delhi to promote new technology;

(b) whether Government propose to allocate more funds for various development programmes, new 'experiments of seeds and quality base Varieties of agricultural product; and

(c) whether any foreign assignment has been received by this Institute and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Sir, the institute has taken up appropriate research programmes in areas like rice-wheat farming system, development of hybrids